The Lions' Pride

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A Day for Saint Leo

By Danielle Meikle
Contributing Writer

For the past few weeks, students have been noticing chalk-drawn notes on the ground all over campus that read "A Day for Saint Leo" and wondered just what those messages meant. On Nov. 11, burning questions were answered when the Saint Leo Alumni Association, along with the Office of Student Activities put on a special day of celebrations called "A Day for Saint Leo."

This day-long celebration of school spirit started in the morning with a photo booth. Students were encouraged to dress up in goofy hats, chains, glasses, etc. to take selfies which they were asked to share on social media with the hashtag #mySaintLeo. There were also giveaways of green and gold beads and T-shirts at select times during the day. Tasty funnel cakes and carnival rides were available on the SAB Green throughout the day.

Students, faculty, parents, staff, and alumni were all invited to show their school spirit throughout the day by wearing green and gold and by giving generous donations. The goal was to raise the most money in a single day for the university's development. According to the Saint Leo Alumni's Instagram page, over $100,000 was raised.

This main carnival-style event ran from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the SCC Bowl. Tickets for this event went on sale on the Saint Leo ticket website the week before and were free for students. The tickets allowed each person one meal from their food truck of choice and a chance to participate in all the fun activities. There were great options available ranging from tacos to hamburgers, and even an expresso bar. The long lines of grinning patrons that stretched from each truck and back to the games spoke to how excited students were to enjoy the evening's festivities.

Vanessa Reid, a sophomore marketing major, said, "The food was amazing! I had the tacos, and I never wanted it to end. I think this was a great way to spend my Friday evening- great food and great friends."

Photo by Cassidy Koehler

Cedric Blatch and Sydney Early celebrate their victory after being named Saint Leo's king and queen.

The night was made even better with a spectacular ten-minute firework show that wowed all present.

"That was so unexpected, but it was a great addition to this night. I know everyone enjoyed that," said Andrea Thompson, a parent of a Saint Leo student.

The successful event ended with the crowning of the 2016 – 2017 SLU King and Queen. Nominations of Saint Leo graduating seniors were submitted in the week before. All the nominees wore a green sash marked "SLU Court" leading up the event. The award was given to the Saint Leo graduating senior that students felt have impacted the campus and best exemplified SLU's Core Values. Congratulations to this year's King, Cedric Blatch, and Queen, Sydney Early.

Honoring Our Veterans: Celebrating Our Freedom

By Kadyann Stupart
Contributing Writer

Saint Leo University's annual celebration of Veterans Day was held on Nov. 11. The event, which has usually been held in the Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardrooms in the Student Community Center, had a change of location to the Loggia outside the School of Business building. The ceremony saw favorable weather and a large crowd which consisted of students, professors and current military members and their families.

The celebration paid homage to the valiant individuals who have served in areas of the active military, navy, or air force and have been honorably discharged or released. Director of Veteran Student Services, retired U.S. Army Colonel Pamela Martis, presided over the event and welcomed the students, administrators, guests, and veterans.

She delivered the history of veteran's day as well as its significance to the country by stating, "It is a day to honor those who continue to serve in harm's way to protect our fellow Americans."

Following this was a posting of the colors by Saint Leo University's ROTC cadets accompanied by a rousing rendition of the National Anthem by retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Todd Burnap.

Father Kyle Smith, the chaplain of University Ministry, offered the invocation while student veterans James Campbell and Tobias Neil shared their reflections on Veterans Day. In his speech, senior James Campbell brought across the point that, "What makes the United States unique is that we have an all voluntary military force regardless of political ideologies, religious background or economic class. U.S. citizens selflessly volunteer to enlist or commission into the U.S. military."

Campbell stated that the Saint Leo University community has been very involved with National Veterans Organization and is on its way to becoming the first recognized Omega Delta Sigma chapter in Florida. He added that the Students Veterans of America Organization (SVA) encourages participation among students, veterans, and the ROTC.

Photo by Wakens Leonard

State Rep. Danny Burgess encouraged all guests to show our veterans they respect, love, and support that they deserve this Veteran's Day.

Campbell also delivered a powerful reflection on the significance of Veterans Day. He stated that he is sometimes taken aback by displays of gratitude for his service because, to him and fellow veterans, it is simply a matter of doing what needs to be done. Campbell said the following to veterans who wonder what they have done in the wars that they have participated in.

"Sometimes they need to understand that maybe you can't see it but you actually may have saved somebody's life and given them a history." In concluding his speech, Campbell said, "All of us gave some and some of us gave all for everything to be a shield to the people of this nation and on this day I am very proud to stand with my other brothers and sisters as veterans."

Vice President Robert T. Quinn, a former U.S. Army Captain, also provided welcoming remarks stated that, "For over forty (40) years Saint Leo has played a special role in the lives of active military, veterans and their families," tailoring programs and creating opportunities for the almost thirty percent (30%) of the student body which is comprised of active military, veterans and their families.

Vice President Quinn had also heartily introduced this year's guest speaker, Florida Representative Danny Burgess, U.S. Army Reserve Captain and former mayor of Zephyrhills. The University of South Florida alum and practicing attorney delivered a patriotic and thought-provoking speech on how individuals can honor veterans.

"Veterans Day is about honoring those who have served, and I can't think of a better way to honor them for their sacrifices than by showing our gratitude and pride for living in the greatest country in the world…" said State Rep. Burgess. "Another way we honor our veterans is by not taking our freedoms for granted. People have died for these freedoms; people have lost so much to defend what we sometimes so often take for granted."

To conclude his speech, State Rep. Burgess urged all the attendees, particularly the students, to take a step back, think about what they would like to do in life and to do it well. He advises students to, "Leave the world a better place than it was before you were here, that's how you honor our veterans."

Editorial

How Much Sleep Can College Students Actually Get?

By Michayne Stoney
Contributing Writer

Ring! Ring! Ring! It's Monday morning and the alarm just went off to start the day. I am most certain that a majority of college students debate whether or not to get up and start the day or to just hit snooze and catch a few more minutes of rest. Many students are so busy throughout the week and weekends with not only school, but also work. It's almost always tempting to sleep in a few extra hours in an effort to regroup and restore for the upcoming week.

According to the National Institute of Health, college students account for one of the largest populations of sleep deprived individuals. Research at Brown University has reported that only 11% of college students report that they get good sleep, while 73% have sleep related issues that hinder them from getting a good night's rest. Statistics from the National Institute of Health also show that 18% of college men and 30% of college women reported having suffered from insomnia within the last three months.

Similarly, research conducted by Shelley Hershner and Ronald Chervin, professors in the Neurology Department at the University of Michigan, concluded that during college years, "…inadequate sleep hygiene is common, as students often use technology and substances that compromise sleep quality and quantity. This chronic sleep deprivation may impair academic performance, mood regulation, and driving safety. Students who attain sufficient sleep may still struggle with sleepiness due to sleep disorders."

These results have led to the evaluation of how much sleep college students can really get. Are they able to acquire at least eight hours each night?

"On average, I get about five to six hours of sleep on a week night. If I sleep for longer, I end up falling really behind on my schoolwork and that really stresses me out a lot. I rely on caffeinated beverages to keep me awake during those long nights of work. It is hard because I love to sleep, but I know it will be worth it in the end," said sophomore Cynnique Johnson. Johnson is majoring in biomedical and health sciences.

Other students had similar thoughts.

"I find it hard to get eight hours of sleep. Most nights I go to sleep at 1:00 a.m., and end up waking up at 5:00 a.m. to do yoga and get ready for the new day. I generally have a lot of work to do and when I know I have things to be done, I cannot sleep comfortably," stated junior Maria Lopez. Lopez is also a biomedical and health sciences major.

Some students echoed different feelings on the subject.

"Majority of the time, I am able to get in bed before midnight, and I generally wake up around 9:00 each morning. There are some times, however, when I have a paper to write or a test to study for and I may have to stay up later to get it done. If I get less than six hours of sleep though, I find it hard to function," stated sophomore Martina McKoy. McKoy is majoring in psychology.

On campus, it seems as though the number of hours of sleep students get is related to how well they are able to balance their schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and social life.

"I know that I won't function normally if I don't get my regular eight hours of sleep. As such, I try to plan my life around my sleep schedule, ensuring that it always stays intact. For me, sleep comes first and then everything else is fitted around that," stated freshman biology major Laurian Simpson.

Other biology majors had contrasting views.

"My schoolwork and assignments always come first. If I know I have work to be done, I will always put that first and sleep definitely comes after. This does not always favor a regular sleep pattern or getting sufficient rest, but I am not comfortable knowing there is work to be done while I am sleeping. I realize that on days when I am really tired, short naps and coffee really help me get through the day," said sophomore Adrienne Pierre.

The amount of sleep one is able to get seems to have also been related to how involved each student is on campus, how many classes they are taking, and the level of difficulty of each of their classes.

Undoubtedly, one would need to spend more time on more difficult classes and less time on easier ones. Similarly, a student who is not involved in any clubs or organizations on their campus will have more time to sleep when compared to a student who is actively involved in a host of clubs and organizations, who as a result of their involvement, will get less sleep each night.

Photo by Nicole Alvarez

The nap pods in Apartment Building 5 are an excellent way for students to quickly catch up on rest without having to sleep for an extended period of time.

Here's what you missed online this week at www.prideonlinedot.wordpress.com

Importance of Veteran's Day

During the week leading up to Veteran's Day, Saint Leo planned a number of exciting and educational events. To learn a little bit more about why the day is so important for our troops, go online and read the article.

The Piscataway Performance

Native American culture is important to our country as well as the Saint Leo community. On Nov. 4, the University welcomed dancers from the proud Piscataway tribe who entertained students with their traditional dance. To learn more about this event, go online and get the full story.

Learning to Relax

For students stressing out over impending exams, Saint Leo treated them to a spa day and a visit from some friendly therapy dogs on Nov. 9. To learn more about how students got pampered, read the full article online.

Back-to-School Scams

There are many scams floating around, involving iTunes gift cards, fake IRS calls, and much more. Read the article online to learn about the latest scams plaguing students and others.

How to Keep Internet Safe

Globally, on Oct. 21 internet users had difficulty accessing websites, such as Netflix, due to a Distributed Denial of Service Attack. To learn more about what these attacks are and its effects, go online to read the article.

Bob Dylan – a Lyrical Legend

Bob Dylan won a Noble Prize for Literature. To find out exactly why Dylan was granted this award and his other accomplishments in the music scene, read article online.

Is it Making a Difference?

On Nov. 1, Saint Leo welcomed the "Pope's Rabbi," Abraham Skorka, as well as several other esteemed religious icons to speak about the importance of interfaith relationships in today's world. To find out what wise words were said, check out the full article online.

Creepy Clowns in Florida

Clowns attacks have been occurring across the country, including in Florida. To find more about the recent incidents and threats involving clowns in Florida, and an incident on Saint Leo campus, read online.

The Last Test Before Nationals

The University's cross country teams prepare for their Regional competition, as their coaches reflect on past successes.

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Campus News

Mock Presidential Debate Showdown

By Mirna Candé
Contributing Writer

Disclaimer: The following story, photos, and accompanying items are fictionalized and are part of Saint Leo University's Alternate Reality Learning Experience (ARLE). The events described did not occur. The characters are fictional and any resemblance to any person living or dead is purely coincidental.

Photo by Kadyann Stupart

From left to right, Marcus Howard, Frank Orlando, Paul Friedman.

The presidential debate held in the boardrooms on Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. was the perfect occasion for students to show their interest in politics and voice their opinion. The Democratic presidential candidate, Marcus Howard, and the Republican presidential candidate, Paul Friedman, engaged in a confrontation of arguments for an hour and a half that ultimately led to a winner.

Leandrous Chieves, a senior in political science with a minor in legal studies has impersonated Marcus Howard. Mark Saunders, a junior in political science with a minor in economics, has impersonated Paul Friedman. They were asked several questions about the US economy, social problems, and immigration policies. Howard wants to raise taxes in the short term and open our borders to immigrants. Meanwhile Friedman wants to lower taxes and close our borders to immigrants to secure the US people and their jobs.

Although they made it clear that they were not Barack Obama nor Donald Trump, their policies had the same scope as theirs, which allowed the public to relate to the US elections.

As each candidate was defending his position on the subject, the audience was enthusiastically showed their support, making it quite hard for the moderator. Surprisingly, the outcome of the debate was greatly similar to the actual results of the US elections: unpredictable.

With a total of 400 votes cast, Friedman was proclaimed the winner of the presidential debate with 212 votes compared to 188 votes for Howard. He shared his happiness with his family and friends that came to support him.

"I am extremely excited. I mean, the American people saw that my policies were better for the future of our country. So I am really excited to get to work, and to put those policies in action," said Friedman.

Howard felt that it was a great experience. He expressed his opinion about the event.

"My only quarrels would be that the moderators involved themselves in the debate a little bit too much. They didn't allow us to get any rebuttals in for the last 30 minutes. So it was things said by my opponent that I wanted to correct, but I wasn't allowed to correct. And when I tried to correct them, I was basically railroaded by most of the moderators; so I feel that needs to be changed in the future."

The room was crowded as the audience was waiting with snacks and refreshments. Many students came for various reasons; many to support their candidates, others out of curiosity or just for the fun of being part of the audience. Some people were happy with the results of the debate while others were disappointed. The audience was able to vote for the candidate of their choice after a voting poll was created online.

Joshua Bartholomew, the SGU President, also voiced his opinion on the debate as he was assisting among the audience.

"This is my second time doing this project. Every year, they do this project, and it's always approved. I like the fact that it allows us to have experience, but at the same time connecting what's currently going on right now. It's been a lot of awareness going on in the political world. Tonight has clearly brought that into life. It's a great way to give students opportunities for their applications," said Bartholomew.

Even the President of Saint Leo University, Dr. William J. Lennox, expressed his satisfaction.

"I think the event was absolutely great. I think anytime you can get students out of the class, and doing what they're trying to learn is a great experience. Those students who participated in that will never forget that experience, whether it's the candidates up there, they learned so much about the debates and the political system, but also people back here working in the media, the criminal justice, doing the security. Those are great lessons that you learn a whole lot better doing than sitting in class."

Mr. Frank Orlando, the political science instructor, manifested his happiness for the success of the event.

"This year, we decided to do it on Monday, the night before the elections; everyone's in the right mood. I think it definitely led to a better turn out," said Professor Orlando. "I think it was a great event. I think everyone had a good time. But also a good learning experience for everyone. People are going to leave this class with something for their portfolio and experience they can use. I'm really happy for everyone that was involved, how well they worked. You can tell how well they prepared. You don't get to see all the work behind the scenes, but it was all there. I am really proud of them."

Sydney Early, a senior in marketing and multimedia management, was supporting Friedman and came out highly satisfied with the outcome of the debate.

"Overall I think the candidates did really well arguing back and forth. It's really entertaining; that's for sure. They had good policies, and I really think Friedman came hard memorizing a lot of what the policies were. He memorized a lot of Marcus Howard's campaign and his policies, which I though was really good on his part because he was able to really pinpoint a lot of his… and strengths too. So I think overall Friedman had a really good argument there and that's what won him the debate," she said.

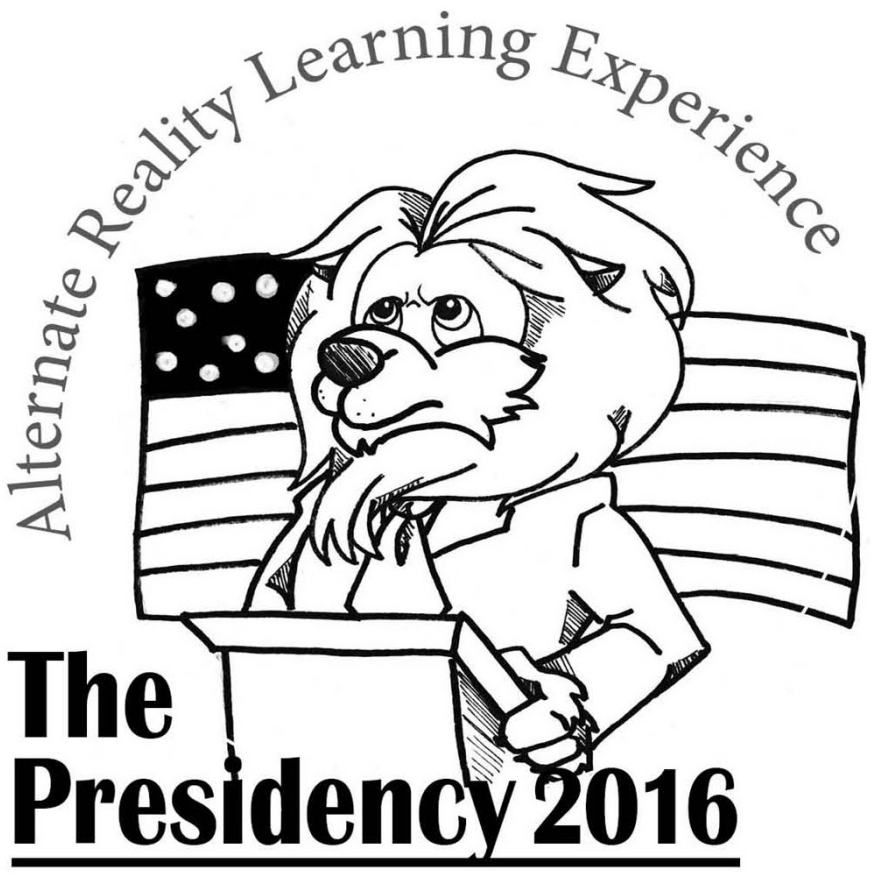
Nephtalie Jacques, a senator in SGU and a junior in criminal justice, was in favor of Marcus Howard. Disappointed that her candidate did not win the debate, she nonetheless voiced her thoughts on the effectiveness of the event as she believes it was a success and very educational.

"I feel that the University through the political science program is doing a good job at showing off the students' capacities at campaigning or debating. As the President of the Debate Club, I feel like there are valid points and skills we should learn from them as a debater. I believe their advisor Frank Orlando is doing an awesome job, and I am thankful that this program has him as an adviser," said Jacques.

The Campaign and Elections course does not intend to stop here. Emphasis is made on giving students practical knowledge that will help them further in their career. The presidential debate is only one among the many other events of

Photos by Kadyann Stupart

After a lengthy debate, Paul Friedman was declared the winner.



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The Great Barrier Reef: Is it Dead or Alive?

By Michayne Stoney
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 12, Outside Magazine tweeted the link to an article, along with an obituary for the Great Barrier Reef.

"The Great Barrier Reef of Australia passed away in 2016 after a long illness. It was 25 million years old," reported Outside Magazine.

This article stated the reefs' lifespan was from 25 million BC-2016. Undoubtedly, this generated waves of shock and disbelief throughout social media.

"Twitter users have been grieving the loss of the reef and urging followers to pay serious attention to the consequences," according to CNN.

However, the reports claiming the reefs are dead are said to be a major exaggeration. Scientifically, the reefs, are dying, but not yet completely dead.

"While we should be very concerned about the condition of the reef, to state that the reef is 'officially dead', is an unfortunate example of sensationalist journalism," said Dr. William Ellis, a Saint Leo professor of biology and a marine biologist. "The majority of the coral is still alive, but the stresses of elevated temperatures and increased ocean acidity are a serious threat to the surviving corals."

The Great Barrier Reef, located in Queensland, Australia, is the world's largest coral reef system. According to the Great Barrier Reef Travel Guide, it has over 2,900 individual reefs, and stretches over 1,400 miles. It contains a wide variety of aquatic life and coral cays, and According to the Australian Government-Department of the Environment and Energy, the reefs provide a beautiful, picturesque depiction of tropical beaches.

"The GBR is of superlative natural beauty above and below the water, and provides some of the most spectacular scenery on earth. It is one of a few living structures visible from space, appearing as a complex string of reefal structures along Australia's northeast coast," said Australian Government-Department of the Environment and Energy.

Also, in 1981, the Great Barrier Reef was selected as a World Heritage site, and CNN branded it as one of the seven natural wonders of the world. In CNN's Destinations interactive, the reef is described as, "Home to the current generations of polyps that is also inhabited by many colorful and exotic species of marine life. Nearly microscopic fish co-exist with much larger whale sharks, countless shellfish and other fanciful creatures."

"Many animals rely on the corals for refuge and food. While some of these reef dwelling species will adapt to the reduction/loss of corals, it is certain that many will not," said Dr. Ellis.

Unfortunately, in recent times, many storms have affected the reefs negatively. Also, The Great Barrier Outlook Relief report from 2014 noted the reef was under severe threat from climate change, poor water quality from land-based run-off, impacts of coastal development, and illegal fishing.

"The harsh influence of man combined with various cyclical and natural factors have created cause for concern amongst both biologists and conservationist groups who do not want to see this precious natural miracle fall into decline. One of the contributing factors to the reef's beauty which is simultaneously one of its greatest weaknesses to threats is the level of utter dependence each part of the ecosystem has on one another," states thegreatbarrierreef.com.

Earlier this month, the Great Barrier Reef was given a D for its overall health report by the federal and Queensland government.

Picture from @OutsideMagazine

The Great Barrier Reef has experienced two huge coral bleaching events. These happened in 1998 and 2002. The latter was more severe as aerial surveys showed that over 50 percent of reefs experienced some coral bleaching.

"The results of the annual report card were based on data collected before this year's climate change-induced bleaching event that killed about a fifth of the reef's coral, suggesting next year's results will be even worse," states an article by the Guardian published on October 22. "The report card measures the progress towards water pollution targets, as well as the overall health of the Great Barrier Reef's ecosystems, including coral and seagrass."

Although much was put in place by government officials, the reefs seemed to not have made the turn around everyone had anticipated.

"The government has a target to reduce inorganic nitrogen flowing into the Great Barrier Reef – mostly from sugar-cane fertilization – by 50%. The report card rated progress towards that target with an E or "very poor", finding it had only been reduced by 18.1%," reports The Guardian.

Because of its beauty and ecological importance, efforts are still being made to combat the harmful effects of coral bleaching, overfishing, pollution, and storms. There is still much hope and desire to salvage the reefs, and save them from dying completely.

"Bleaching events and subsequent recoveries have happened many times in the past. However, full recovery would require that we fix what is causing the bleaching in the first place. I'm not certain that will happen," said Dr. Ellis. "Although industry in Australia, particularly the mining industry, has a role to play in the degradation of the reef, the causes of this bleaching are mostly global in their scale. For this reason, the solutions to the problem must also be global."

Also, ABC News reports, "Thousands of so-called citizen scientists are putting up their hands to help professional scientists working to measure the impact on the Great Barrier Reef in the aftermath of this year's catastrophic coral bleaching."

Members of the public are trying to help out in whatever way they can. Much efforts are being made to keep a record of the amount of fish, and capture images of the reefs, in order to gather information, and send them to the relative authorities. In an interview with ABC News, Sabine Zonderland spoke about working with teammates to count aquatic species.

"I saw lots of trout, lots of little Nemo fish, they were all together in little families so we saw lots of them. I think it's fantastic we can get involved even though we're not marine scientists or have any biology background. That's wonderful to know you can give back," said Zonderland.

With such help from members of the public, hope is being generated that the Great Barrier Reefs will not succumb to the harsh environmental climate. The Great Barrier Reefs are of significant value where ecology and tourism are concerned.

"If people hear that the reef is dead, most will not choose to visit the area. This has been a great concern for the Australian government," said Dr. William Ellis.

Photo from @austmus

The Great Barrier Reef is very old, and composed an enormous amount of living things. It has living coral growing on dead coral dating back perhaps as much as twenty million years.

Self-driving Cars Approved by Federal Government

By Rafal Matuszczak
Staff Writer

On Sept. 20, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released its first official set of regulations regarding the manufacture and sale of self-driving cars. Based on the new rules, companies that are involved in building and testing self-driving cars will be required to share information with the federal government.

Even though self-driving and semiautomatic cars have already been used by people in some parts of the world, the regulations regarding the use of cars vary from state to state in the United States. However, the White House seems to realize that the technology is being developed very rapidly, and some steps have to be taken in order to resolve legal issues regarding the use of such vehicles.

In the newest 116-page policy, the NHTSA presented guidelines and rules regarding several aspects associated with the newest technology. The document points out issues, such as required cyber security preventing hackers from taking over the vehicles or the cars' ability or the lack thereof to adjust to different laws in different states across the country.

The policy also includes information regarding ethically

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challenging situations in which it is hard to determine how the cars' software should be designed in order to choose the best possible solution. For example, the cars should know what to do when a crash cannot be avoided, and they should choose the solution that minimizes the harm.

Nevertheless, one of the most important information included in the policy, is the requirement for the companies producing such vehicles to share crash and safety data with the federal government, as well as with different companies involved in the industry. The regulation has been established to improve the safety of self-driving cars. The information is supposed to help indicate the safety issues and, thus, avoid them by improving the design and functionality of the vehicles.

"As the digital era increasingly reaches deeper into transportation, our task at the U.S. Department of Transportation is not only to keep pace, but to ensure public safety while establishing a strong foundation such that the rules of the road can be known, understood, and responded to by industry and the public," said Anthony R. Foxx, the Secretary of Transportation, according to the U.S Departments of Transportation's official website.

One of the main problems related to the new policy is whether the companies will want to cooperate and share all the sensitive information with other companies and the government. The companies will have to follow a 15-point safety assessment to indicate the safety of their vehicles. Nevertheless, Bryan Thomas, a spokesman for the NHTSA, indicated that the guidelines would most likely be mandatory through regulations, and the companies will have to cooperate in order to produce self-driving cars legally, according to theverge.com.

Safety is the most commonly mentioned concern in regards to the use of self-driving cars, and the government wants to make sure that giving permission for the cars use on public roads will not result in harm to the passengers, as well as other people on the roads. Therefore, the government wants to receive details about how the cars function, collect data, or avoid collisions, as mentioned before. Also, they want to know what happens when such cars crash and how these cars are protected against hacking and the government plans on publishing an annual report based on the collected data.

Despite all the concerns about the lack of safety of self-driving cars, some people indicate that vehicles operated by software, one day might be even safer than vehicles with a driver inside.

"A self-driving car can't get drunk. A self-driving car can't get distracted. And a self-driving car will follow the traffic laws and prioritize safety for pedestrians and bicyclists," said Colleen Sheehey-Church, president of Mothers against Drunk Driving, according to trucks.com.

Since drunk driving and distractions, such as texting while driving are one of the main reasons for car crashes, eliminating those factors by replacing the drivers with software might profoundly decrease the number of car crashes. Nevertheless, as long as the cars are not entirely tested, it is unclear how safe the vehicles actually are and it will probably take some time until enough data to provide relevant statistics is collected.

Even though there are still many unknowns, more and more people are beginning to realize that self-driving cars are the future of transportation.

"Self-driving cars have the potential to save thousands of lives lost on the nation's roads each year and to change the lives of the elderly and the disabled," said President Barack Obama, according to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Not only the self-driving cars can change many people's lives, but also they can help the traffic move more efficiently than ever before.

"Safer, more accessible driving. Less congested, less polluted roads. That's what harnessing technology for good can look like. We have to get it right. Americans deserve to know they'll be safe today even as we develop and deploy the technologies of tomorrow," added Obama in his editorial for post-gazette.com.

In fact, the driverless and semiautonomous cars have already gained popularity, and they have been present on the roads in the United States. One of the most popular manufacturer, and one of the pioneers of self-driving cars is Tesla which has already sold tens of thousands of cars that are capable of driving by themselves. The feature known as autopilot has been widely used by the customers, and so far, two fatal crashes resulting from the cars mistakes were reported: a crash in Florida and China.

Even though two crashes does not seem to be a large number when compared to how many cars with the autopilot feature have been sold, the crashes still resulted in rumors because people lost lives in the accidents. However, the Tesla's chief executive, Elon Musk, announced that the company would release new software for the cars, according to The New York Times. Musk indicates that the update includes improvements that could have helped to avoid the fatal crash that happened in Florida last May.

Tesla is not the only large company that decided to invest in self-driving cars. Other companies such as Uber, Google, or Apple have also invested in the technology. In fact, Uber, a company providing transportation services, has already launched trials that allowed the customers to order driverless cars in Pittsburg. At the same time, Google has also tested its own self-driving cars around its headquarters in California.

Because the driverless cars already exist, and they are used by many people, the policy regulating their use had to be created as soon as possible. The people in the White House realized that it is important to address issues related to the driverless cars before more accidents happen.

Photo from @jowyang

One of the self-driving cars is developed by Google, and the one shown in the picture is developed without any steering wheels or pedals.

Apparently, even the definition of a car has to be addressed as it is no longer a vehicle with a driver inside. The newest policy includes a five-level scale indicating the level of a car's automation, where on the level one the car is entirely operated by human while it is fully automatized on level five.

Perhaps, introducing the self-driving cars to the market on the large scale will invoke new questions. One of them might be if it will still be required for a driver to have a driver's license if the cars are fully automated. Nevertheless, the policy will most likely be changed once the market becomes larger and new issues arise.

"Going forward, we will conduct significant public outreach to inform our next update to this Policy. We very much look forward to the dialogues that will emerge in the coming weeks and months and thank you in advance for helping us," said Foxx, according to U.S. Department of Transportation.

Changing the already existing laws in states that have already allowed using self-driving cars might be challenging, as well. Nevertheless, each state in the United States will have to follow the federal guidelines and change their internal policies to accord with the federal laws. Otherwise, if the cars do not fulfill the requirements presented in the policy issued by NHTSA, they might not be allowed on the roads.

However, if the technology continues to develop so fast, it is possible that in few years the roads will be full of cars operated by software rather than humans. Eliminating the drivers from the cars might result in a decline in the number of fatal crashes. In 2016, nearly 40,000 people died in car accidents in the United States, according to the National Safety Council.

In fact, self-driving cars have already received financial support from the White House. President Barrack Obama, as one of the most important propagators of the technology, has decided to boost the adoption of self-driving cars by creating a 10-year funding plan. The plan is supposed to be funded in the 2017 fiscal year, and its overall cost is $4 billion, according to Forbes.

Nevertheless, as safety is number one priority in this situation, the federal government admits that there is no room for mistakes.

"Both government and industry have a responsibility to make sure that doesn't happen. And make no mistake: If a self-driving car isn't safe, we have the authority to pull it off the road. We won't hesitate to protect the American public's safety," said Obama, according to post-gazette.com.

Photo from @jowyang

According to engadget.net, after several thousand tries, self-driving cars developed by Google has mastered three-point turns.

Arts & Entertainment

Battlefield 1: The Great War through the Eyes of DICE

By Michael Goodeaux & Brian Cerosky
Social Media Manager
Contributing Writer

"Battlefield 1" hits on themes that are rare in the modern-day shooter genre; although the time period is set during WWI, the game plays more like a hybrid between WWI, WWII, and the modern era.

DICE and EA's take on "The War to End All Wars" will leave you breathless. In the very first mission, the player is thrust immediately onto the western front where a battle rages between the German Empire and Great Britain, a battle that will decide the outcome of the entire war; The Battle of the Somme. In real life, more than 300,000 people died and more than a million were wounded on that half-mile strip of land in northern France. The developers of Battlefield 1 were not afraid of showing the player the raw carnage that the age of mechanized warfare had wrought.

The campaign is organized into short stories that are dubbed "War Stories" in the menu. The stories consist of first person dialogue by a soldier and it includes a small cutscene in-between gameplay. The stories themselves are quite moving, as they highlight the horrors of the war through the soldiers' eyes, as well as hitting on the themes of selflessness and sacrifice. The campaign is rather short, coming in around at only a small 6 hours of content, with the game's real highlight being online multiplayer.

One minute, you're lying in bed on a Sunday morning, fresh, ready to awaken and begin the day. The next, you find yourself on the cold, dark earth. Ear shattering explosions erupt around you as artillery shells land mere feet away. You're picked up from the mud and dirt by an unfamiliar face; a soldier. He's yelling something, but your ears are ringing, nothing can be heard. Men are savagely fighting one another inches from your face, stabbing one another with bayonets, beating each other with bricks, blood flowing over the earth like a river.

However, the main focus of Battlefield has always been its multiplayer experience, and DICE manages to pull off a satisfying and exciting flurry of game modes that will keep you coming back for more. The addictive nature of Battlefield's multiplayer is notorious and it certainly does not let up in Battlefield 1. Classic game modes such as Conquest, Rush, and Team Deathmatch are back and better than ever as players have the option take control of authentic WWI tanks, aircraft, and new "behemoth" vehicles that aim to change up the course of a battle ranging from Zeppelins to dreadnoughts. A new game mode dubbed "Operations" combines the elements of Conquest and Rush into one, creating a large-scale and action-packed game mode that currently offers the highest level of chaos of any of the game modes by far. Additionally, Operations offers historical context before and after each battle with hypothetical scenarios, adding in a bit of storytelling flair to this outstanding addition of a game mode.

Operations mode puts players on a team on one of two warring sides during several pivotal battles during the war. One side attacks and attempts to capture flags and push the enemy back through different zones. Once a zone is captured, the spawn point is shifted to that zone and new flags spawn ahead of the previous zone. The other side, the defending side, has to prevent the attackers from taking their zones.

The attacking side has a certain number of "tickets," representing 1 death. Every time an attacker dies, the ticket count is reduced by 1 and the goal is to get that count to 0 before the attackers take over all of the flags within a zone. The attackers only have 3 chances to capture all the zones.

If they hit 0 tickets in a round, they have one less chance and are reinforced with a Behemoth, which is a large vehicle manned by several players that can do substantial damage.

The game plays differently than DICE's previous "Battlefield" game, "Battlefield 4" (it is important to note that DICE did not develop "Battlefield Hardline," which is technically the previous game in the series). The class system has been reworked, which mixes up things for players who have become accustomed to the standard four classes.

The biggest change was the splitting of the Assault and Medic classes (which had previously been combined and called the Assault class) and the removal of the Engineer class. DICE gave the anti-tank weapons from the Engineer class to the Assault class. The Support class got the repair tool. The game also saw the addition of four new specialty classes, which can only be used under certain circumstances.

As compared to "Battlefield 4," in which the player spawned into a vehicle with a chosen class. In this installment, a specialty class is given depending on if the player spawns into a vehicle. Tanker class is given if the player spawns into a tank, the Pilot class if spawned into an aircraft, and the Calvary class if spawned onto or climb onto a horse. Additionally, at certain times during matches, the player gets the chance to pick up an Elite class loadout in a crate located on the map. These include a heavy machine gun, a flamethrower, or an anti-tank rifle.

Battlepacks were also overhauled. Instead of dropping much-needed attachments, they only drop weapon skins now. DICE developers felt that it was unfair for players to need to buy or earn Battlepacks at an extremely slow rate in order to get the chance at getting a weapon attachment they wanted to use. Although there is a section in the "Store" tab to buy Battlepacks via micro-transactions, it is currently disabled and there is no word of when it will come. Meanwhile, players have a random chance at earning one at the end of a match and DICE has confirmed that there is an algorithm in place to ensure that all players have a change to obtain Battlepacks. Additionally, if a player doesn't like the skin they got, or if it is a duplicate, they can "scrap" it and use the scrapped skins that they've saved up to buy a new Battlepack.

Currently there are nine maps to play on, with future purchasable content coming from the developers who promise to add additional maps, game modes, weapons, and vehicles. So far, each map share some features in common. For instance, houses, fences, and even entire hill-sides can be destroyed, showcasing DICE'S commitment to make a realistic war-simulation game. Special weapons can also be picked up by looking for them on certain maps such as a flamethrower, a heavy machine gun with a suit of steel armor, and an extremely powerful anti-tank rifle. Additionally, each map has special anti-air and anti-tank gun emplacements that are designed to support the rest of the team by destroying troublesome hostile aircraft and vehicles.

As was mentioned earlier, "Battlefield 1" feels more like a hybrid game than a WWI shooter. For the time period, there seems to be a lot of automatic weapons, which were still mostly in the experimental phase during the war and were not widely used. In fact, some of the guns feel more fitting of a WWII game.

From a graphical standpoint, the game is impressive in its aesthetics and textures, from the earth beneath the player's feet to the clouds and sky above them. Explosions often send dirt and debris flying around in a highly realistic fashion, along with the fog, storms, and sandstorms. These weather effects look impressive and do not lower the frame rate, shaking up game play in tightly contested matches. Although a few bugs currently exist in the game, they do not at all detract from the overall experience and can be quickly dealt with or avoided when confronted with them.

While DICE nailed the environment of the battlefields to make it feel like WWI, the guns and gameplay just made it feel like a badly mixed cocktail of three different subgenres of First Person Shooter (FPS) games. When approached about this, DICE commented that they weren't in the market to make a historically accurate representation of WWI, but rather were in the market to make a very fun game that would appeal to a wide audience. If one were to overlook this somewhat minor detail, Battlefield 1 still widely exceeds all expectations.

Photo by Michael Goodeaux

Battlefield 1's most popular game mode is called "Operations," and acts as a mix between "Conquest" and "Rush."

Arts & Entertainment

"Joanne:" Not Your Normal Gaga Album

By Lucy McManus
Contributing Writer

The highly anticipated "Joanne" was released on Oct. 21, Lady Gaga's first solo album in over three years. The album cover itself is uncommon for Gaga, featuring a simple, understated photo of the artist herself, rather than her well-known outlandish look.

The first impression of "Joanne" shocks listeners with the vastly different sound as compared to Gaga's previous albums, "Artpop" (2013) and "Born this way" (2011). The album is named after Gaga's deceased aunt, Joanne Germanotta, and effortlessly combines catchy pop tunes and electro synth pop in songs such as "Hey Girl" and relaxed ballads like "A Million Reasons" all in one album.

Lady Gaga disclosed in an interview with People Magazine that the album was deeply biographical and about family. "Returning to your family and where you came from, and your history…this is what makes you strong." "It's not looking out that's going to do that- it's looking in… 'Joanne' is a progression for me...It was about going into the studio and forgetting that I was famous," said Gaga.

While listening to the tracks, it is clear that men have had a big effect on Gaga's personal development. The first track on the album, "Diamond Heart," is rumored to be about Gaga's ex-fiancé, Taylor Kinney. Gaga recently broke off their five-year engagement, previously posting pictures of her six-carat diamond, heart-shaped engagement ring. This track, co-written by Mark Ronson, is sure to be a hit with fans, as it combines a strong, pounding drumbeat with a climatic, electric chorus.

"A-YO" combines a memorable double hand-clapping sequence and chorus with clear country-music influences, not previously heard in Gaga's other albums. Country influences are also evident in "A Million Reasons," a high point in the album. In the lyrics, Gaga asks for guidance from above because life is giving her "A million reasons to quit the show."

The title track "Joanne" earns the label of the most emotional song in the album. The song is totally stripped down, and Gaga sings honestly about the death of her aunt, simply accompanied by acoustic guitar, "And I after love you even if I can't see you anymore can't wait to see you soar."

Another highlight in "Joanne" includes "Hey Girl," a duet with Florence Welch, the frontrunner of English indie rock band Florence and the Machine. The two distinctly different voices weave together beautifully to create a funky electric pop sound. The message behind the lyrics is female empowerment, and simply sends the message that women can lift each other up, rather than tear each other down, with lyrics such as, "Hey girl, hey girl, we can make it easy if we lift each other."

"John Wayne" is a punk rock track which refers to the actor John Wayne, as well as Gaga's previous relationships while including several cowboy references. Shown in her lyrics,"I just love a cowboy I know it's bad, but I'm, like, can I just hang off the back of your horse and can you go a little faster?"

Biblical references are also included in two tracks, "Sinner's Prayer" and "Come to Mama." In "Come to Mama," for example, Gaga refers to the Old Testament figure Noah to highlight the importance of loving one another, "There's gonna be no future if we don't figure this out."

"Perfect Illusion" is an upbeat pop song that has a growing sense of urgency. It features a building chord sequence and a key change in the final chorus, which was used to build up to Gaga's finale song.

Famous for her political activism, Gaga's last track on the album "Angel Down" is a reference to the death of Trayvon Martin, who was killed by Martin Zimmerman, yards away from his front door, in 2012. This track leaves the album hanging on a raw and emotional note, describing the song in an interview with Beats One Radio as a protest song about "The epidemic of young African-Americans being murdered in this country." As there are apparent references to the shootings in the lyrics, such as "Shots were fired on the street, by the church where we used to meet."

The favorite track on this album would be "Just another day," as it is the most uplifting and catchy track on the album. In fact, the piano accompaniment creates a sound like one heard on The Beatles' album "Abbey Road," released in the 1960s. The foot-tapping piano ostinato keeps the song moving and features a horn solo by highly acclaimed New York City jazz musician, Brian Newman.

"Joanne" is certainly different but already proving to be a success, featuring Gaga at number 1 on the Billboard Charts. Gaga will continue to gain more fans if her future albums feature more stripped-down songs which focus on her incredible voice and sheer talent rather than her stage image and the façade that follows it.

College Days
Created by Austin Chiavaroli

"Black Friday Caution"

Sports

Saint Leo Hosts National Championships

By Rafal Matuszczak
Staff Writer

On Nov. 19, cross country teams from all around the nation will visit Saint Leo to participate in the NCAA Division II National Cross Country Championships. For the first time in the school's history, Saint Leo University will host national championships. Both Men's and Women's Saint Leo Cross Country teams qualified for the event, and the will participate in the competition held at the Abbey Golf Course.

Nearly 450 athletes from 64 different teams will take part in the championships. After completing the Regional Championships on Nov. 5 in different parts of the country, the list of teams that qualified for the National Championships has been announced.

Both Men's and Women's Saint Leo Cross Country teams are included on the list as both of the teams placed second during the NCAA Division II South Region Cross Country Championships. For the men, it is the fourth consecutive appearance in the national championships, which also marks the fourth time in the team's history. For the women, the situation is fairly similar. However, the Lions take part in the event for the third consecutive time.

In 2015, while the championships were held in Joplin, Mo., the men managed to place their five top runners in the top 200, which allowed them to earn the 28th spot on the scoreboard. The Lion's top finisher was a graduate, Valentin Lenz, who finished the race as 79th. The women finished the competition just one spot higher than the men, and their score allowed them to be 27th.

Nevertheless, the women's top finisher, Junior Colett Rampf, managed to finish the race as 23rd, which gave her the All-American recognition which was the first such honor in the team's history.

Photo from @NCAADII

Both the Saint Leo men's and women's cross country teams took part in the national championships last year. For the first time in the history, they have a chance to be part on such an event on their home course.

This year, Rampf won the Regional Championships for the second consecutive time, and she will come back to action on Nov. 19 to pursue the national championship.

"We expect the team to perform even better than they did at Regionals. We are looking for a top 20 finish on both sides, as well as a few individual top finishes. We're hopeful now that the team has raced the course twice, in addition to countless workouts on the Abbey that they are prepared to perform their best and have an advantage over the competition," said Graduate Assistant Coach for both Men's and Women's Saint Leo Cross Country teams, Katie Henriksen.

The distances for both men and women will be the same as they were during the regional championships. While the men will run 10K, the women will compete on a course that is 6K long. The teams will run the same course on which the championships were held on Nov. 5.

However, even though the course does not have to be changed, hosting national championships might still be much more challenging than hosting regional championships as the size of bot of the events is incomparably different. From accommodating people from all around the country in hotels to providing parking spaces during the event, as well as providing a safe environment for the athletes and the spectators, hosting nationals is a logistical and physical challenge for both Saint Leo University and the NCAA.

"Preparing the course and coordinating all the people involved in such an event will be the hardest part. We have the goal to make this the best National Championship race in Division Two, so living up to that high expectation will be challenging, though possible," said Henriksen.

Nevertheless, being able to host such an event is an honor, as well as an opportunity for Saint Leo University. Not only can it help the school to gain more nationwide recognition, but it might also bring positive consequences in regards to the Cross Country and Track recruiting process in the future.

"I do believe that hosting such an event will play to our advantage in gaining recognition and in recruiting. When recruits gain knowledge that we hosted Nationals, hopefully they will associate that with a championship program. We also have a couple recruits coming to watch Nationals, so they will be able to see the team in action defending their home course," added Henriksen.

Also, in the statement on the Championships official website the Director of Athletics at Saint Leo University, Francis X. Reidy indicated: "Our goal is to create a championship experience like none other – one filled with memories that you will keep for years to come. All of us within Saint Leo Athletics stand ready to fulfill this pledge," according to diicrosscountry.com

The fact that Saint Leo hosts the event this year might also help the Saint Leo teams perform better. Not only the Lions have had a chance to practice on the Abbey course more than any other team in the country, but also as members of the South Region, they tested it while racing.

Home course advantage along with the potential support of people from the Saint Leo local community might help the runners to run faster. Nonetheless, neither the Saint Leo men nor the women are ranked as the top 25 in the country after the women were dropped out of the list in the most recent rankings. However, the rankings indicate who might be potential favorites.

The rankings indicate that the results in regards to the top finishers might be similar to those from 2015 when Colorado Mines won on the men's side while Adams State won on the women's side.

"Colorado Mines, Grand Valley, and Adams State are looking like the top teams on the men's side. On the women's side, Adams State, Grand Valley, and U-Mary look like the top teams," said Henriksen.

The men's race will start at 8:30 am while the women will begin their competition at 9:45 am. Stay tuned to the Lions' Pride Newspaper as more information about the championships will be available.

Photo from @saintleoxctrack

Freshman Ronald Cheserek has been the Lions' top finishers in all races during the entire season.

Upcoming Games For the Week of 11/18/16 - 12/2/16

M Swimming

11/18: @ Florida Tech Invitational 11 AM
11/19: @ Florida Tech Invitational 11 AM
11/20: @ Florida Tech Invitational 11 AM

W Swimming

11/18: @ Florida Tech Invitational 11 AM
11/19: @ Florida Tech Invitational 11 AM
11/20: @Florida Tech Invitational 11 AM

W Volleyball

11/18: @ Nova Southeastern 7 PM
11/19: @ Palm Beach Atlantic 4 PM

M Cross Country

11/19: NCAA Division II National Championship 8:30 AM

W Cross Country

11/19: NCAA Division II National Championship 9:45 AM

W Basketball

11/19: Vs Fla. Memorial 5 PM
11/30: Vs Embry-Riddle 5:30 PM

M Basketball

11/19: Vs UPR-Mayaguez 7 PM
11/22: Vs Armstrong State 7 PM
11/26: Vs Molloy 2 PM
11/30: Vs Embry-Riddle 7:30 PM